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Flammable Chemicals and Barcodes: What's the Big Deal?**Resources and Links**

Return Flammable Chemical Containers to Commons Room CE 119 (EH&S Haz Waste Room) according to the [Waste Receiving Schedule](#)

If returning only barcodes, place in interoffice mail to: EH&S, 239 Hawthorne

[Flammable Chemical Tag](#)
This tag is placed on each flammable chemical delivered to a laboratory

Questions? Contact Jerry Mayfield @ 716-1224 or 713-2854

Summary Information and Requirements

The amount of flammable chemicals (gallons) which can be present on a floor of a high rise building is established by the North Carolina Fire Code. These limits are quite restrictive. Therefore, it is essential that all users of flammable chemicals keep on hand quantities as low as operationally possible. Most of our research buildings (Gray, Hanes, NRC, and Dean) are considered high rise.

WFUHS Environmental Health and Safety, encouraged by the Winston-Salem Fire Department, has developed a Chemical Management Inventory System (CMIS) which allows flammable chemicals to be tracked by room location. Barcodes on each flammable chemical container are essential to this tracking system.

HOW THE TRACKING SYSTEM WORKS

New Flammable Chemical Purchases. Barcodes are placed on each container by EH&S. This barcode links with the PeopleSoft requisition which indicates the delivery location. Hence, each container is registered in CMIS with the user's location.

Removing Chemicals from Your Inventory. The primary way flammable chemicals can be removed from a laboratory or other location inventory is by delivering an empty barcoded container to EH&S. An alternate method is to place the barcodes of empty containers on a blank sheet of paper and forwarding to EH&S. This method is based upon the "honor system"; that is, only barcodes from empty containers should be delivered to EH&S.

THE BARCODE "BLACK HOLE". If barcodes are not returned to EH&S the effects may be:

- Inventory levels are inaccurate and show more flammable chemical load than actually exists.
- The Winston-Salem Fire Department may question the validity of the CMIS system and impose stricter procedures or even extensive and expensive building alterations.
- Research operations could be interrupted.

Note: Presently, flammable chemicals are not barcoded if their destination is PTCRC or BGTC or Friedberg.

Fast Guide

Fundamental and concise information from
WFUHS Environmental Health and Safety

